

BARCROFT

NEWS

WELCOME!

The Barcroft News is your neighborhood newsletter. It is produced by your neighborhood civic association, the Barcroft School and Civic League. This month we changed to a new format, and expanded the mailing list. We hope you like it!

For many years Arlington has been organized into neighborhood civic associations to make local decisions and give advice to the Arlington County Board. The BSCL is one of those associations. In 1908 the League's members built the Barcroft Civic House at 800 South Buchanan Street (which now also houses St. Georges Bulgarian Orthodox Church). The League is active on local issues such as street lights, traffic signals, potholes, sidewalk repairs, parks, and building permits. It also represents the neighborhood on broader issues such as the future of Arlington Hall, fire station relocation and the renewal of Columbia Pike. Interested neighbors provide the League's vitality, so if you want to change this little corner of the world just come to the next meeting or pick up your phone and call anyone listed in this newsletter. We're your neighbors, and we would love to hear from you. You can make a difference in Barcroft.

The BSCL meets at the Community House on the first Thursday of each month. Meetings are small and friendly. They feature a speaker on a topic of neighborhood interest. The next meeting will be on September 4. We would all be pleased to see you there.

To contribute articles, cartoons or just plain advice to this newsletter, call Randy Swart at 521-2080. To add an upcoming event to the listing call Anne Noll at 892-6710. To advertise here, call Karen Duff at 979-2422. We hope you will enjoy the new Barcroft News. If you do, please send in your dues of \$2 per person today to ensure that you remain on our mailing list.

MEMBERSHIP

Now is the time for those of you who are already BSCL members, and for new members to join for the 1986-87 year (September to June), to send in your dues with the form on page four. Again this year the BSCL has kept dues as low as possible--only \$2 per person. There are good reasons to join now:

- * It shows your interest in the neighborhood.
- * It gives you a vote in BSCL elections.
- * It ensures that the friendly, informative Barcroft News will keep coming to your doorstep.
- * It means that we will not knock on your door asking you to join!

Please take a minute now to put your name on the attached form and mail it to the BSCL's membership chairman, Kathryn Villegas, at 4301 Columbia Pike, Arlington 22204. You are also welcome to join at any meeting of the League. We need your support to keep the Barcroft neighborhood spirit alive and well. Please join today!

ARLINGTON HALL REPORT

Arlington Hall is the Army base with the high fence on the east (DC) side of George Mason Drive. It was a local womens' college until World War II.

The Army will vacate the site in 1989. The State Department will take over most of it as the new site of the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), the training center for Foreign Service Officers. The Defense Department will keep 15 acres along the east side of George Mason Drive. Arlington County may be allowed use of the part west of George Mason, within Barcroft.

For more than a year Barcroft residents have been involved in meetings and public hearings on the plans for Arlington Hall. Many of you were among the hundreds who turned out for one or more of these meetings, particularly the decisive Arlington County Board meeting in April. There the Board noted the large number of "Barcroft B" nametags present and decided that it would not put the County's new central police facility on the parcel west of George Mason. Thanks to all those who turned out to support the neighborhood! It was a nice show of unity and means a great deal to those who live next to the property. The Board approved plans for a park as recommended by the BSCL. The police station will be located close to the Court House. The County Staff has now presented to FSI the proposals for recreational and parkland uses which the Board approved.

In late June, a preliminary site development plan was submitted to FSI by an outside consultant. The preliminary plan recommended that buildings be kept low (under 45 feet) and that the natural appearance of the site be enhanced by keeping existing trees and creating several small ponds and a stream. Where possible, security needs may be satisfied without high fences. Some recreational facilities are likely. The report did not recommend that the stone women's college buildings be preserved. The seven acres within Barcroft, west of George Mason Drive, were suggested as a site for possible future student housing, although it is not clear when or if this would be built.

This plan is now being used as the basis for an architectural design competition. FSI will select a preliminary design proposal, and will decide which architectural firm will be asked to design the new facility.

In addition to the FSI facility, the National Guard wants to use the 15 acres of the site along the east side of George Mason which the Army will keep for an office building. Its status is less clear, since it is not part of the FSI design process. The National Guard has said it wishes to make the building compatible with the rest of the site, but the fence along George Mason would probably remain.

The Committee on Community Concerns will be in contact with Congressman Wolf's office, Federal and County agencies as this process continues. For information or to register your views, call Pat Roach at 920-8131.

COLUMBIA PIKE REVITALIZATION BEGINS

A coalition of civic associations, businesses and property owners along Columbia Pike has formed the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO or "see-pro" for short) to promote the renewal of the Columbia Pike area.

The group grew out of an earlier task force. It will implement the task force's recommendations, including land use, zoning, streetscaping, parking and parks. CPRO will concentrate on the area from Oak St. to Randolph Street. Although this does not include Barcroft, the benefits of sprucing up the area will be enjoyed by all.

The first issue raised by the group is a request to the County Board to match its funds on a 1-to-1 basis. For more information call Anne Noll (892-6710) or Susan Sarcone (920-8131), who are the BSCL's representatives to CPRO, or come to the Barcroft School and Civic League meeting on September 4 to hear Ralph Perrino, President of CPRO, speak on how Columbia Pike will be changed and how that affects Barcroft.



AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

By Kathy Kerr

Looking for adventure? It's close by in our neighborhood. On foot or by bicycle, we are only minutes from some of Arlington's nicest outdoor areas.

An easy entrance to Four Mile Run park lies at the west end of 9th St. South. Turning right on the bike path will lead you to a nice playground, a short cut to Lubber Run Nature Center, some fun bridges and ideal spots to throw rocks in the stream (a favorite pastime of our 3-year-old and his Dad.) The path leads on to other Arlington parks. You can go all the way to Leesburg!!

Why not pack a picnic lunch and go to Alcova Heights Park at George Mason Dr. and 8th St. South. Here you will find a popular basketball court, playground equipment, picnic tables, more bridges and Doctor's Run, a meandering stream.

What may be the BEST playground in Arlington is found behind the Unitarian Church at the corner of Arlington Blvd. and George Mason Dr. It is hidden by a tall wooden fence which also keeps the kids within a small but delightful area. The church preschool welcomes community use of the playground when their school is not using it. Weekends are a very popular time. It's a great way to meet neighborhood families!


Don't forget Barcroft Elementary School on S. Wakefield St. which has both play equipment and fields.

If you look closely between the homes at 416 and 500 S. Abingdon St., you will find a small paved path leading down the hill. (The dog on your left is restrained by an invisible electronic fence.) At the bottom is a bridge and, yes, another stream. Go up the hill on the other side, left on Aberdeen St. and you will find another entrance to Four Mile Run park. Why not take a stroll or a jog, meet some neighbors and enjoy the weather as it cools off?!

By bike, stroller or on foot--there is plenty to enjoy in Barcroft. Take the kids, your neighbor or the dog and have some fun exploring!

 *
 * EDITOR RETIRES FOR WELL-EARNED REST *
 *
 * Tonie Copeland, editor of the *
 * Barcroft News for the last eight *
 * years and a never-tiring volun- *
 * teer who has contributed many *
 * hours to BSCL activities, has *
 * retired after the June news- *
 * letter. *
 *
 * We will miss Tonie's hand at *
 * the helm. Eight years is a *
 * very long time for an editor to *
 * serve, and we all feel that *
 * Tonie deserves a lot of recogni- *
 * tion for her contribution! *
 *

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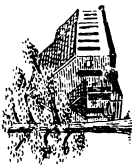
CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

- 2 Tuesday 7:45 PM Arlington County Civic Federation
Candidates Night Info. 892-6710

- 4 Thursday 7:30 BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE
MEETING. Come and hear Mr. Ralph Perrino, President
of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization
explain what is happening now along the Pike and how
it affects Barcroft. Info. 892-6929

- 4 & 25 Thursday 7:30 PM Arlington County Board
Meetings Info 558-2838
- 6 & 20 Saturday 9:00 AM Arlington County Board
Meetings Info 558-2838.
- 6 Saturday 7 AM - 1:30 PM Arl. Community Garage Sale
Info 558-2475
- 16 Tuesday 7:30 PM Barcroft PTA Meeting Info 920-6423

BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22202



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE
c/o Kathryn Villagas
4301 Columbia Pike
Arlington, VA 22204

Name _____
Address _____
Arlington, VA 22204
Phone _____

Please send with \$2 per person.